

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ophthalmic device for retaining the equatorial region of a lens capsule during cataract and intraocular lens implantation surgery, comprising:
a rod-shaped handle having a length of about 6 mm or more and a thickness of about 0.01-1mm and a tip bent at an acute angle, the tip including, at a free end thereof, one of a plurality of linear branches and a pad formed of linear branches, a length from a trough of the bend to an end of the tip being about 1.5 mm or more, each linear branch having a thickness of about 0.01-1 mm, and the pad having a width of about 1 mm or more.
2. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
a positioning stopper located on the handle.
3. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the ~~plurality of branches~~ extends one of upward and downward relative to an axis of the handle.
4. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1, wherein each of the ~~plurality of branches~~ extends one of leftward and rightward relative to an axis of the handle.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is made of a synthetic resin selected from at least one of polypropylene, nylon, silicone, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl fluoride, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimide, and a shape-memory resin.
7. (Original) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is made of a metal selected from at least one of stainless steel, aluminum, titanium, and a shape-memory metal.

8-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of retaining a lens capsule during cataract surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, ~~one of a plurality of linear branches and a~~ linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and
performing a lens nucleus and cortex extraction.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of retaining a lens capsule during an intraocular lens implantation surgery of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing cataractous lens extraction;
inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, ~~one of a plurality of linear branches and a~~ linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and
implanting an intraocular lens in the capsule.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of retaining the lens capsule during a cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation of mammals, comprising the steps of:

performing anterior capsulotomy;
inserting a lens equatorial region retainer, comprising a rod-shaped handle and a tip bent at an acute angle and including, at a free end thereof, ~~one of a plurality of linear branches and a~~ linear branched pad, in the lens capsule so that the pad pushes against the equatorial region to retain the capsule; and
performing the cataractous lens extraction and intraocular lens implantation surgery.

20-21. (Canceled)